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Office of Legislative Counsel

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*Briefings*

Mr. Gary Hymel, Executive Assistant  
Office of the Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Gary:

I realize this is tender ground and would not want to appear presumptuous in making suggestions about what Congress might do to alleviate the leak problem, but in the spirit of our conversation I am happy to provide these thoughts. It is probably longer and more complex than you need, but I thought you would rather have more than less against the possibility that some of the ideas may be good and may be feasible. Again, I am not selling anything and this does not represent an official position. I am trying to help.

Another topic -- Leadership briefings. We have an arrangement on the Senate side for periodical substantive intelligence briefings of the Minority and Majority Leader. We have a similar arrangement with Representative John Rhodes that has been going on for some time. Previous Speakers McCormack and Albert were also periodically briefed. Is it possible that the Speaker would like to institute such briefings for himself or if he doesn't have the time, perhaps the Majority Leader, who happens to also be an ex officio member of the Boland Committee, as is Mr. Rhodes. The way I see this working is that we would start out with a briefing on foreign topics of overall interest, perhaps a half-hour briefing, every two weeks or so, and when there is enough material to make it worth the Member's time. In the process we will learn of particular interests of the Member and can be assured we are also covering those interests.

Sincerely,



Acting Legislative Counsel

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